

Private First Class Amy Sinkler, of Chadbourn, North Carolina. On the morning of January 20, 2011, Amy lost her life while defending our Nation in Afghanistan during an attack by insurgents. I ask that you join me in honoring her memory and service as we mourn this tragic loss.

A native daughter of Chadbourn, Amy had always expressed her desire to serve her country. Amy graduated from West Columbus High School in 2006. While in high school, she participated in the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps to prepare for a career in the Army, which she joined in August of 2009. After training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, Amy joined the 109th Transportation Company, the "Rough Riders," stationed at Fort Richardson in Alaska. She began serving in Afghanistan in July 2010, and she was sadly taken from us just six months into her first tour of duty. Amy was only 23.

Amy will be sorely missed by her family and friends. She was the daughter of Randolph and Jackie Bullock Thompson and a sister to four siblings, Brittney, Sharonda, Sabrina, and Randolph Jr. She was the loving wife of Douglas Sinkler, her high school sweetheart, with whom she made her home. Her grandparents were Roosevelt and Irene Thompson and Raleigh Early and Juanita Bullock. Amy touched countless lives by serving as an admirable example of selfless service. She was so admired by her family, friends, and community, in fact, that hundreds of people attended vigils in remembrance of her. Amy's funeral on January 30, 2011, was one of the largest ever held in Columbus County, with over 1,000 people coming to pay their respects to Amy and her family.

Mr. Speaker, it has been said that a person demonstrates greater nobility in war than in peace. Amy Sinkler's inspirational life and service to our country prove this to be true, and we will always remain in awe of the life she lived. May God bless her family, and may we always remember the life of Private First Class Amy Sinkler.

#### SUPPORT AMERICA'S BORDER COMMUNITIES

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I recently introduced H.R. 543, legislation to include certain Department of Homeland Security facilities, such as ports of entry, under the Payments in Lieu of Taxes, PILT, program.

Since 1976, communities have received payments from the Interior Department's PILT program to help offset losses in property taxes due to nontaxable Federal lands administered by the BLM, the National Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Forest Service.

However, all along our Border, communities are not reimbursed for land that the Department of Homeland Security uses for ports of entry. The community often provides resources and services to these facilities without reimbursement from the government. My bill, H.R. 543 provides support for these communities.

H.R. 543 amends existing law to include certain Department of Homeland Security fa-

cilities, such as ports of entry, under the PILT program. Providing access to these payments will help these communities with the important work they provide along our borders.

#### HONORING ERICA LYNN CRUMP

**HON. GEOFF DAVIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to my constituent Erica Lynn Crump of Walton, Kentucky who passed away suddenly on December 28, 2010.

Erica worked as a clerk for the I.R.S. and was a member of Erlanger Baptist Church. Not only did she serve others through her work and church; she also gave back as a dedicated and passionate volunteer for the Republican Party, the Republican Women's Club, numerous campaigns and other conservative political causes.

She considered volunteerism her niche in life. She loved the responsibility it gave her, the opportunity to learn and make a difference—and she loved the people with whom she worked.

More importantly, Erica was a mother. She cared for and unconditionally loved her daughter Grace.

Her commitment to her daughter, family, friends and community will be greatly missed. Erica's example is inspiring to all those who serve others.

Today, as we celebrate the life and accomplishments of this exceptional individual, my thoughts and prayers are with Erica's family and especially her daughter Grace. I share in their sadness, and pray that God's peace will comfort them in their time of need.

#### CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE NEW YORK BRANCH OF THE NAACP

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 10, 2011*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Centennial Anniversary of the founding of the New York Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

On January 27, 1911, 100 years ago, the New York Branch of the NAACP received its Charter. Organized by Executive Committee members Mary White Ovington, Charles H. Suddins, Frances Blascoer, Oswald Garrison Villard, Gilchrist Stewart, Joel E. and Arthur Spingarn, the New York Branch was the first Branch established in the National Association's history.

In April 1911, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois proposed that the Branch should have an investigator and organizer to examine cases and complaints, to raise funds and develop a "forum for discussion." Gilchrist Stewart, a young attorney, was chosen to fill this role and become Chairman of the New York Branch Vigilance Committee. In the fall of 1911, the Branch opened in Harlem where "colored people could report any cases of injustice before the

law." During the first six months, three cases were handled involving police brutality, which led to the trial and suspension of one police officer.

The New York Branch had successful campaigns to break up the pattern of theatre segregation. Despite these activities, the Branch was adversely affected by a lack of stability. In December 1913, the Board decided that the New York Vigilance Committee be reorganized and focus on fundraising for the National Association. The legal work handled by the Vigilance Committee was transferred to the National NAACP office, which by then had a full-time lawyer.

At one time, the New York Branch became inactive, and when the NAACP Annual Report was published in 1916, the Branch was not listed. According to historian Charles Flint Kellogg, the original charter had been lost. Since there was no record of its date of issue, a new charter had been issued on November 11, 1917, when James Weldon Johnson succeeded in organizing a Harlem Branch and became its Vice President. That same year, Ms. Mary White-Ovington secured approval from the NAACP National Board to enroll those individuals who participated in the 1917 Silent March on 5th Avenue. Each individual received a compensation of \$1 while serving as a member of the branch for the duration of 1 year.

During the fall of 1931, the New York Branch reverted back to an inactive status, and the NAACP National office enlisted Field Organizer Daisy Lampkin to conduct a membership campaign which ended on October 2, 1931. As a result of the campaign, 500 new members were enrolled and \$3,323.00 was raised. As a result, the Branch was reorganized and granted a renewed charter on November 9, 1931.

In addition to Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York Branch has had several distinguished activist and civil right leaders to serve as President during its history, including: James E. Allen who later helped to organize and become the first New York State Conference President; the Honorable Ella Josephine Baker, who was one of the visionaries who created the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1957; the Honorable Judge Jawn Ardin Sandifer was one of two NAACP staff lawyers who successfully argued *Henderson v. United States*, the unanimous Supreme Court decision ruled that railroads that operate across state lines may not bar passengers from eating in dining cars because of their race.

It also includes two of my dearest friends and brothers, the Honorable Basil A. Paterson, former Secretary of the State of New York and renowned national labor attorney; and the Honorable Percy Ellis Sutton, our former Manhattan Borough President, civil rights attorney, business leader and founding Chairman of the Board of the largest black-owned radio stations in the nation, Inner City Broadcasting, Inc. Other past Presidents who served include Russell Crawford, Lind H. White, I. Joseph Overton, Richard A. Hildebrand, Jeff L. Greenup and Carl Lawrence.

Today, the New York Branch has been one of the largest leading membership Branches of the NAACP. Led by its President, Dr. Annie B. Martin, the New York (Harlem) Branch is continuing to work steadfastly on the front lines of